

EXHIBIT 27 25
DATE Jan. 21, 2013
HB 7

House of Representatives
Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning
Honorable Rob Cook, Chairman
Dave Lewis, Vice-Chairman
63rd Montana State Legislature
Capitol Building
Helena, MT

January 21, 2013

RE: House Bill 7; LC0100 by request of the Officer of Budget and
Program Planning by Legislative Council

Sponsor: Rob Cook
Reclamation and Development Grants

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and the Committee,

My name is Shane Morigeau and I am here on behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes support HB 7 because of the threat posed by mussels to our economy in Montana.

There is an immediate threat posed by the invasion of zebra and quagga mussels. The waters of Montana, the Flathead Basin, and the Flathead Reservation are in threat of invasion and if zebra mussels and quagga mussels got into our water it could cripple our blue ribbon recreational and subsistence fisheries.

We are facing a potential economic catastrophe if we allow these aquatic invasive species into our waters. Flathead Lake is one the world's largest natural freshwater lakes and a major recreational destination for all Montanans and out of state visitors. Our vitally important tourism industry and cheap hydropower could be heavily crippled by invasive species. Millions of dollars could be spent to remove mussels from hydropower dams and irrigation facilities. For instance, the Flathead basin alone has 500 plus lakes that could be impacted if colonized by mussels and others invasive species.

Please help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species in Montana and provide funding for reclamation and development grants by supporting HB7. Please give HB 7 your support and a positive vote. Thank you.